



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department

Name: Sheriff-Coroner
Department No.: 032
For Agenda Of: May 6, 2025
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director: Bill Brown, Sheriff-Coroner
Contact Info: Selim Celmeta, Lieutenant, (805) 681-4047

SUBJECT: Request for Bid Waiver on Competition in Purchase of Inmate Mattresses

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Yes

As to form: Purchasing

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to waive competitive bidding requirement per County Code Section 2-39 (c) to procure 4-inch mattresses for incarcerated persons from the Santa Clara County Department of Correction, not a local vendor, without being required to conduct a formal bid process, not to exceed \$43,147.66; and
- b) Determine that the activity is not a "Project" subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary:

This item is on the agenda to authorize the purchase of 4-inch mattresses for incarcerated persons from the Santa Clara County Department of Correction (SCC DOC) to replace the jails' existing mattresses that have aged and are no longer serviceable for the jail population. The Sheriff's Office inadvertently exceeded purchasing authority on the below indicated mattress purchases totaling

\$18,594.08. As a procedural step to mitigate the oversight, staff are now providing a publicly-disclosed explanation and assurance of remedial steps being taken, and accordingly request your Board to approve a bid waiver that will extend only to the previous purchases identified within this Board letter.

Background:

The Sheriff's Office has been utilizing 3-inch mattresses for incarcerated individuals in the County jail facilities. These mattresses were purchased several years ago; they have aged and have not retained the thickness necessary to support comfort, which affects the sleep quality of incarcerated individuals. Furthermore, *Murray v. Santa Barbara County* Remedial Plan experts and Class Counsel believe that before achieving Substantial Compliance status, it is important to evaluate whether the current mattresses truly meet the standard of being "serviceable" for the jail population. Many individuals report that the mattresses are extremely thin, offering insufficient support for proper sleep, leading to numerous requests for double mattresses. The current mattresses are also difficult to repair when they become frayed, cracked, or damaged. Furthermore, individuals with mobility impairments or specific medical conditions are particularly prone to experiencing pain or difficulty sleeping on these mattresses.

SCC DOC operates a work program that allows incarcerated persons in their jails to manufacture mattresses and other materials for government agencies to purchase. SCC DOC also sells replacements for mattress covers; these covers are often damaged by incarcerated individuals and are more cost-effective than replacing a mattress entirely. The Sheriff's Office has worked with SCC DOC for many years, and the existing 3-inch mattresses were also purchased through SCC DOC.

The Sheriff's Office previously purchased mattresses from SCC DOC in this fiscal year in an amount of \$24,553.58. Unfortunately, Sheriff's Office staff inadvertently placed two additional orders for mattresses and mattress covers, believing there was a valid blanket purchase order in place to purchase these items. It was later determined that \$24,553.58 of the \$25,000 blanket purchase order with SCC DOC had already been expended. Staff are now requesting Board approval of a competitive bid waiver, as permitted by County Code Section 2-39, and retroactive authorization in the amount of \$18,594.08 for the purchase of 135 4-inch mattresses and 100 mattress covers to replace the remaining mattresses in the Sheriff's Office's inventory. The Sheriff's Office has conducted more in-depth training with storekeepers to ensure this oversight is not repeated. Additionally, when mattress replacements are required in the future, the Sheriff's Office will conduct a formal bid process to determine whether there are other vendors that can meet the County's needs.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2024-25
General Fund	\$43,147.66
State	
Federal	
Fees	
Total	\$43,147.66

Mattresses are purchased infrequently based on need, and the cost of a 4-inch mattress is \$85. The purchase of 100 mattress covers will allow the Sheriff's Office to repair damaged mattresses at a lower cost (\$35 per cover excluding tax and shipping) as compared to full replacement. The cost of \$18,594.08 is included in the Sheriff's Office FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget within the Services & Supplies object level, as is the \$24,553.58 that was already paid to SCC DOC through the blanket purchase order.

Special Instructions to Clerk of the Board:

Clerk of the Board: Please send a copy of the Minute Order to Sheriff's Office, Attention CFO Hope Vasquez, and a copy to the Purchasing Department.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Invoice #1800093078 for \$14,150.74

Attachment B - Invoice #1800093254 for \$4,443.34

Authored by:

Selim Celmeta, Lieutenant
County of Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office, Custody Support Division, Resources Unit